UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/26163
26 July 1993
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

LETTER DATED 24 JULY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

It is with great anxiety that I inform you that the aggression by the Republic of Armenia against the Azerbaijani Republic is continuing.

On 23 July, Armenian armed forces occupied the city of Agdam. The city was almost entirely destroyed by artillery and tanks. The residential areas in large part were burnt down completely.

From the positions which they have occupied, the Armenian troops are subjecting to incessant bombardment the villages of Geytepe, Shirvanly and Garadagly, where refugees from Agdam and surrounding villages are settled in tent encampments.

After capturing the city of Agdam, Armenian troops are continuing to advance in the direction of the towns of Barda and Agjabedi, which are situated far outside the limits of Nagorny Karabakh in the Azerbaijani Republic. Armoured units belonging to the Armenian armed forces have advanced several kilometres along the Agdam-Barda and Agdam-Agjabedi roads. Along these roads, there are tent encampments in which approximately 60,000 civilian refugees from villages in Agdam district and from the city of Agdam in the Azerbaijani Republic, all of which have been captured by Armenian armed formations, are settled. Unless the Armenian troops are stopped, a great threat is posed to the evacuated civilian population, and the number of victims, which after three days of fighting exceeds 200 civilians, may increase manyfold.

On 24 July at 0550 hours, Armenian armed forces resumed the offensive against the town of Fizuli in the Azerbaijani Republic, which also is situated outside the limits of Nagorny Karabakh. The very real threat of capture by the Armenian army hangs over this town. There is heavy fighting at a distance of between 2 and 3 kilometres from the town, while the heights around the town are controlled by Armenian subunits and from them there is constant rocket artillery shelling of the town of Fizuli and the adjacent villages. There are many dead and wounded among the civilian population. The Armenian armed forces have occupied three villages to the south of Fizuli. Following the capture of Agdam, armoured vehicles are being brought in by Armenian troops along the Agdam-Khojavend (Martuni)-Fizuli road in the direction of the city. In the

forthcoming days, we must expect Armenian forces to launch a powerful tank attack against Fizuli from the north.

The objective of the Armenian military leadership is to capture the city and to cut off the main road and railway leading to three neighbouring districts of Azerbaijan: Djebrail, Zangelan and Kubatly. In this way, the territory of these districts, amounting to more than 3,000 square kilometres in area, will be surrounded, and Armenian troops will have arrived at the Iranian border. They will then be able to add to Armenia 12 districts of Azerbaijan, with a total area of more than 13,000 square kilometres.

In view of the foregoing, the Azerbaijani Republic requests the United Nations Security Council to take decisive action to curb the aggressor and to liberate captured Azerbaijani land.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hassan A. HASSANOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative